

India-Ghana Relations

Political relations:

Indo-Ghanaian relations have traditionally been warm and friendly. The strong foundation of our bilateral relations was laid by India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, and Ghana's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. The two great leaders also enjoyed a close friendship.

The visit of Hon'ble Rashtrapathiji to Ghana from June 12-14, 2016, which was the first-ever State visit by an Indian Head of State, was the highlight of the year. The high-level visit helped further strengthen the bilateral ties between India and Ghana. President Pranab Mukherjee was accompanied by Shri Jitendra Singh, MOS (PMO), Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, MP (Lok Sabha) and Shri Mansukhbhai Mandaviya, MP (Rajya Sabha). An official and business delegation also accompanied the President. Apart from unveiling a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the University of Ghana campus, the President also planted a sapling as a symbol of friendship at the Flagstaff House (Presidential Complex). He addressed students and faculty at the University of Ghana and also the India Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT. He also addressed an India-Ghana Business Forum and interacted with the Indian community at a reception organized by the High Commission. Three agreements/MoUs were inked during the visit: MoU on the establishment of a Joint Commission; MoU on cooperation between Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ghanaian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation and an Agreement for Exemption of Visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

The only other earlier VVIP visit from India to Ghana was that of the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, accompanied by a high level delegation on 8-9 November 1995 on his return from Burkina Faso.

IAFS-III

Special Envoy to the Prime Minister Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya (MOS for Agriculture) visited Ghana from 5-6 July 2015 to deliver PM's invitation to President of Ghana for the IAFS-III Summit. He called on President Mahama and also met with Foreign Minister Ms. Hannah Tetteh during his visit.

President John Dramani Mahama, accompanied by a high-level delegation, visited India to participate in the third India-Africa Forum Summit (October 27-29, 2015) and also had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Foreign Minister Hannah Tetteh, who was part of the delegation met with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Minister of Trade & Industry Dr. EkwowSpioGarbrah also participated in the Trade Ministers Meeting on the sidelines of the Summit.

Major visits from Ghana to India in the past include the visit of President Nkrumah in 1961 and President Limann in 1981. President Rawlings made a stopover in Mumbai on his way from Beijing in 1993, and again visited India in 1997 to attend the funeral ceremony of Late Mother Teresa. In addition, there were several Ministerial visits, including that of the Foreign Minister for the NAM Ministerial Conference in April 1986.

President Kufuor, accompanied by a high level delegation visited India in August 2002. Four bilateral agreements were signed including one which relates to the setting up of a Centre of Excellence for Training in Information Technology in Accra (which became operational in December 2003); and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA); Protocol on Consultations between MEA and Ghana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and a Cultural and Scientific Exchange Programme. The Vice President of Ghana Alhaji Ali Mahama, led a large Ghanaian delegation to the CII conclave held in New Delhi in March 2008. In April 2008, President Kufuor visited India to participate in India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi.

Vice President John DramaniMahama accompanied by Minister of Trade & Industry Ms. Hanna Tetteh visited India to participate in the CII-Exim Bank Conclave in March 2010. Minister of Youth and Sports, Ms.

Akuasena Dansua visited India in October 2010 as head of the Ghanaian contingent to the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi.

Vice President Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur along with Minister of State for Private Sector Development Rashid Pelpuo visited India to attend the World Economic Forum Summit in New Delhi on 4-6 November 2014, jointly organized by World Economic Forum and CII. He also met Vice President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and participated in an interactive session with the captains of Indian Industry. Vice President Amissah-Arthur again visited India in March 2016 for the CII-EXIM Bank India-Africa Conclave, where Ghana was the Focus Country. He was accompanied by the Ministry for Trade & Industry and Deputy Minister for Agriculture.

There have been regular Ministerial visits from Ghana to India including that of Ms. Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment Science and Technology, in October, 2012; Mr. Clement Humado, Minister of Food and Agriculture, in March, 2013 and Mr. Nayan Biljo, Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture Development, accompanied by Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance and senior officials from the Presidency and the Ministries of Energy and Finance respectively who participated in the 10th EXIM Bank - CII Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in New Delhi in March 2014. The Minister of Trade & Industry Dr. Ekwow Spio-Garbah led a 9-member delegation to the CII Partnership Summit, Jaipur (15-17 January 2015). On the margins of the Summit, he met with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble MoS for Commerce & Industry (I/C). Deputy Defence Minister visited Goa for the 6TH Def Expo in March 2016.

There have been regular Ministerial and Official visits from the Indian side too. Shri Anand Sharma, the then Minister of State for External Affairs led a high level delegation to Ghana from 24-26 May 2006 for the CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India-Africa project Partnership and TEAM-9 Ministerial Meeting. He again visited Ghana in March 2007 to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Ghana's Independence; in July 2008 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister; in November 2008 for the inauguration of the Flagstaff House (the Presidential Complex built on a Line of Credit from India) and in January 2009 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister to convey good wishes to the new Government headed by late President John Evans Atta Mills. Shri Anand Sharma visited Ghana as Minister of Commerce & Industry in September 2010 leading the delegation for the India-Ghana CEOs Round Table; and he led a high level official and business delegation to Ghana on the occasion of the hosting of the 'India Show' from 8-10 July 2012. Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Ghana in February 2010 as part of his visit to African countries. MoS for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Ghana on 9-10 August 2012 to attend the funeral service of the late President Atta Mills.

A GOI delegation, led by Shri Sudhir Mital, Secretary (Fertilizer), visited Ghana on 23-28 June 2013 for discussions on India-Ghana Joint Venture Fertilizer Project. A 2-member official delegation from Ministry of External Affairs at Joint Secretary-level visited Ghana from 1-4 June 2015 to discuss Developmental Assistance Projects in Ghana. A 3-member EXIM Bank of India team also formed part of the visiting delegation. A combined team from Ministry of External Affairs and National Research Development Corporation visited Ghana in July 2016 for monitoring the progress on the implementation of the Tomato Pilot Research Project.

Commercial relations:

Ghana was included as one of the nine West African countries under the GOI's TEAM 9 initiative launched in 2004. India has been supporting Ghana's development by providing assistance in setting up projects through provision of Lines of Credit and grants. So far, Government of India has extended Lines of Credit amounting to about US\$ 230 million to Government of Ghana for various developmental projects. Some of the projects have been completed while a few are in various stages of implementation. Amongst the recent projects are the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence for ICT; the Flag Staff House (Presidential Complex); the Pan African E-Network Project and Rural Electrification Project. Two projects under EXIM

Bank of India Line of Credit were successfully commissioned in 2016 – Komenda Sugar Plant on 30 March 2016 and Elmina Fish Harvest & Processing plant on 29 November 2016. A Line of Credit facility for supply of 104 fire tenders to Ghana National Fire Services was also completed on 3rd December 2016. Other projects which are in the pipeline are in diverse sectors, *inter alia*, waste management, railway equipment, agro-processing, supply of potable water etc. Government of Ghana signed a Buyers' Credit agreement with Exim Bank of India for US \$ 398.33 million for the Tema-Akosombo railway line & Line of Credit of US\$ 24.54 million for sugarcane cultivation and irrigation development project on 22 November 2016.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 6 July, 2010 between India and Ghana for the setting up a US\$ 1.2 billion Joint Venture Fertilizer Project using gas to manufacture fertilizer. However, not much progress happened due to shortage of gas supply.

Hon'ble Rashtrapathiji announced a further financial assistance worth about a million dollars to the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Center for Excellence in ICT. The Center, which is presently run as an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Communications of Ghana, was set up with assistance from India under 'Aid to Africa'. The Centre is well appreciated not just by Ghana but within the region. An India-Africa Institute of Information Technology (IAIT), Food Processing Business Incubation Centre, Material Testing Laboratory and Project Arrow for the improvement of postal infrastructure in Ghana under the decisions of India Africa Forum Summits (IAFS- I & II) are at different stages of implementation. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) have a working MoU which is under consideration for renewal for a further period of three years from 2016.

The exchange of business delegations in recent years has led to an increase in investments by Indian companies in Ghana in sectors like construction, manufacturing, trading, services and tourism and in areas such as steel, cement, plastics, pharmaceuticals, ICT, agro-processing and agricultural machinery, electrical equipments, chemicals, etc. A number of Indian companies are establishing their presence in Ghana, both from the public as well as from the private sector. From the public sector, Bank of Baroda started operations in Accra in February 2008. It opened its second Branch in Tema in August 2012 and a third Branch in Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana, on 14 November 2016.

The private sector is represented by eminent companies viz. Tata, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Escorts, Larson & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, NIIT, M/s ShapoorjiPallonji & Co., as well as several pharmaceutical companies. Svani Motors, dealers of Mahindra & Mahindra in Ghana, recently announced plans for construction of a modern automobile plaza that would house the assembly plant and a service center. Bajaj Auto Ltd. has partnered with Somoco Ghana (a subsidiary of Mohinani Group of Ghana) to market Boxer motorcycles in the Ghanaian market.

According to Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) Indian companies have invested in more than 600 projects with total investment of US\$ 998 million between September 1994 and September 2014 making India the second largest foreign investor country in Ghana in terms of number of projects and ranked 9th in position according to value of FDI in Ghana. There were 57 projects registered under Indian FDI in 2013.

The CII in partnership with the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) held the 12th Regional Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in June 2010 in Accra. The Conclave saw participation from several West African countries including Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Togo. A CEOs' Roundtable was held in Accra on 3 September, 2010. A 35-member Indian business delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) participated in the "Business Meet" organized by the Mission in coordination with the Association of Ghanaian Industries (AGI) on 21 February 2011.

Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Health Dr. Victor AsareBampoe visited India at the invitation of the Apollo Hospitals from 6-9th February 2015 to participate in the Apollo Cancer Conclave, Hyderabad. During the

visit, a MoU was signed between the Ministry of Health of Ghana and Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited to establish tertiary healthcare services in Ghana.

An “India Trade Show” was organized at Ghana International Trade Fair in Accra on 9-11 July, 2012 by FICCI under the auspices of the Government of India and with the support from Ministry of Trade and Industry (Ghana), ECOWAS, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre and Association of Ghana Industries.

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi conducted a week-long Executive Development Programme (EDP) in Accra, in collaboration with the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) from 30 September to 4 October 2013. The programme was attended by 65 participants including Government officials, senior executives from several businesses and trade chambers.

A group of 20 Ghanaian weavers & 5 coordinators from Bolgatonga attended a two weeks training programme, on “Design Interventions for Basketry Craft for Empowerment of Craft Women/Artisans of rural Africa” under IAFS-II, at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad from 2 – 20 December 2013. A six member team from the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, in collaboration with the local partner Aid to Artisan Ghana(ATAG), organized the third in-country Workshop and an Exhibition entitled "Designing the Difference" at the ATAG premises at Accra International Trade Fair Centre from 30 April to 14 May 2014. The 2-day Exhibition was inaugurated by the Second Lady of Ghana, Matilda Amisah Arthur.

An India-Ghana Investment Partnership event was held on 24 March 2015 in Accra. The event brought together prominent local Indian businesses and the local Ghanaian businesses. It was organized by the High Commission with an aim to expand Indian Investment footprint in Ghana. Dr. EkwowSpio-Garbrah, the Minister for Trade & Industry was the Chief Guest for the event and delivered the keynote address.

A multi-sectoral delegation of 36 Indian businessmen visited Ghana from 13-20 April 2015. The visit was organized by the High Commissioner of Ghana to India, who was also part of the delegation. The delegation met with the Vice President of Ghana, the Minister for Trade & Industry, other Ministers and top-ranking government officials. The delegation also toured Ghana to evaluate the investment and business opportunities available.

A CII-led Indian Investment & Business Partnership Mission to Ghana of 20 businessmen from various fields visited Ghana from 7-9 December 2015. The delegation called on the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana H.E. Amisah-Arthur and on the Foreign Minister Ms. Hannah Tetteh on 7th December, 2015. An Interactive Investment & Business event was held at La Palm Beach Hotel on 8 December 2015 The Hon’ble Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. EkwowSpio-Garbrah, who was the Guest of Honour, delivered the keynote address. Highly productive B2B Meetings were held in the post-lunch session.

Bilateral Trade crossed US\$ 1 billion mark for the first time in 2011-12. The trade figures for the last four years are-

(in US\$ million)

Year	India's exports to Ghana	India's Imports from Ghana	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2011-12	800.35	403.67	1204.02	396.68
2012-13	744.12	277.61	1021.73	466.51
2013-14	831.48	370.56	1202.04	460.92

2014-15	680.39	1257.6	1937.99	-577.21
2015-16	623.24	2981.27	3604.51	-2358.03

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)

Ghana's main (traditional) exports are gold, cocoa, nuts and timber products. Gold accounted for nearly 81% of the total imports by India from Ghana. India's major exports to Ghana include pharmaceuticals, agricultural machinery, transport vehicles, electrical equipment, plastics, iron & steel, ethyl alcohol, beverages & spirits, cereals, made-up textiles etc.

ITEC

Ghana has been a beneficiary of India's assistance in human resource development in developing countries through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). Ghana utilized 242 ITEC slots in the FY 2014-15, 267 slots in 2015-16 and utilization for 2016-17 would be full. Ghanaians also filled 42 slots under various other schemes, including ICCR scholarships and capacity building courses offered by IIFT and IAFS Plan of Action. The number of ITEC slots to Ghana was increased from 200 in 2013-14 to 250 in FY 2014-15. **President Mukherjee announced increase of ITEC slots from 250 to 300 and ICCR slots from 20 to 40 for Ghana during his recent visit.** About 50 Ghanaian students are currently studying in India under ICCR's Africa Scholarship Scheme. Six Ghanaian scientists were awarded CV Raman Research Fellowships during 2014.

Cultural relations:

An 8-member Ghanaian dance troupe of Noyam Dance Institute, Accra, sponsored by the Government of India, participated at the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II), at Addis Ababa in May 2011. The High Commission celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore with various programmes in Accra (May 2012). A Ghanaian craft artist also participated at the event. A 10-member dance troupe 'NTENTAN' from Ghana participated in the Africa Festival organized by ICCR in New Delhi and Ahmedabad on 14-22 June 2012 at the invitation of the ICCR. A 15-member Indian cultural troupe of the 'Maitreyee Paharee Group' visited Accra on 9-11 July, 2012 and performed at various venues in Accra. A ten-member Dance troupe from the Institute of Ghana Studies of the University of Ghana was part of the cultural programme of the IAFS-III in October 2015. An ICCR sponsored 8-member Rajasthani Folk Dance (Sapera) troupe visited Ghana between 10-17 September 2015. They gave two performances in Ghana – the National Theatre, Accra on 11th September and at Centre for National Culture, Kumasi on 16 September 2015.

From time to time, the Mission organizes festivals of Indian Feature Films (including Children Films) in leading theaters. Mission organized a 3-day film screening event from 2-4 April 2016 at the Silverbird Cinemas which was received well. Earlier, a festival of Indian films was organized at the Silverbird Cinema in Accra on 25-31 January, 2013 to commemorate the 64th Republic Day. The Mission also organizes outreach programmes with local universities, including screening of Bollywood movies. Several Indian films were screened in the Ghana Technology University College, Accra during 2015 and at the Academy City College, Accra. High Commissioner also delivered lectures on India, Indian polity and democracy in several educational institutions.

Hindi Diwas was celebrated on 14 September 2013 by the High Commission, in collaboration with the Delhi Public School International, Tema (Ghana). As part of the celebrations, competitions on Hindi Essay Writing, Speech, and Story Telling, were organized. Similar participation was repeated in 2014. Mission also celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti on 14 April 2016 by screening a bio-picture of Babasaheb Ambedkar at a reputed educational institution in Accra. The function was attended by students, members of the Indian community and select dignitaries.

The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated with wide publicity on 21st June 2015. The 2nd International Day of Yoga was celebrated similarly on 25 June 2016. Mission has a Yoga Centre manned by a Yoga teacher deputed by ICCR since March 2016 and regular Yoga classes are conducted three days a week, apart from outreach programmes to promote Yoga.

With the support of the High Commission, a few prominent Indian companies based in Ghana organized a Polo tournament between Accra Polo Club of Ghana and Indian Polo Association, on 26 -27 September 2015 at the Accra Polo Club. Indian team comprising four players was led by Army Major Arjun Patil. Ghanaian Minister of Youth and Sports was the Guest of Honour. Ms. Samia Nkrumah of Convention People's Party (CPP), the daughter of Ghana's first President Kwame Nkrumah, gave away the prizes. This added a new dimension to the bilateral relationship.

2nd October 2015 was celebrated by the Mission by screening films on Gandhi at the Alliance Française, the Roman Ridge School and the Academy City College. The screening elicited considerable interest from students in all the three institutions.

The Constitution Day (26th November) was celebrated by the Mission on 28th November 2015 at the Mission auditorium. A lecturer of Political Science from Academy City College delivered a speech on the salient features of the Constitution of India to a group of Indian origin children, who then read out the Preamble. The second Constitution Day was celebrated on 26th November 2016 by the Mission. A painting and essay competition was organized for children in the age groups of 6 -20, which received a tremendous response. A prominent former Justice of the High Court and Constitutional expert, along with a professor in Constitutional Law shared their views on the Indian Constitution with a lively audience. Prizes were awarded to the children who won the essay and painting competition.

Mission also organized a photo-exhibition to mark the 146th Anniversary of the birth of Sardar Vallabhai Patel as 'Ekta Diwas" on 31st October 2016.

Indian community:

The Indian community in Ghana is estimated at about 10,000. Some of them have been in Ghana for over 70 years. The business activities of Indians in Ghana have contributed in a major way to Ghana's economic development. Indian investors are the second highest in Ghana in terms of number of projects. Indian Associations are active in organizing Indian festivities. There are a Hindu temple, a Gurudwara, and a Hindu Monastery in Ghana.

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Useful Resources

Website: <http://www.indiahc-ghana.com/>

FacebookPage: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/High-Commission-of-India-Accra-Ghana/265297936822857>

Recommended Reading references

1.	Death and Pain: Rawlings' Ghana - the Inside Story
2.	A History of Indigenous Slavery in Ghana
3.	Ghana - A Concise History from Pre-Colonial Times to the 20th Century
4.	Selected Speeches of Kwame Nkrumah - Vol. 1 & 2
5.	The Life and Work of Kwame Nkrumah

6.	My First Coup d' Etat (Autobiography of President John Dramani Mahama)
7.	The History of Ghana by Roger S. Gocking

**High Commission of India
Accra**

India-Sierra Leone Bilateral Brief

Political relations:

The traditionally cordial bilateral relations of India and Sierra Leone were re-energized by the visit of the then Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma, to Sierra Leone in January 2009, representing the first high-level visit from India after a gap of ten years.

The High Commission of India to Ghana is concurrently accredited to Sierra Leone with residence in Accra. The Honorary Consulate of India is functioning in Freetown since 1993.

Bilateral high-level visits and consultations include the visit of Indian Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes, to Sierra Leone in July 2000; the visit of Sierra Leonean Minister of Industry and Transport, Mr. A.E. Bangura to New Delhi in November 1998; the visit of a two-member Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament, to New Delhi in January 2003, and the visit of the Foreign Minister Alhaji Momodu Koroma and Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Kadi Sesay to New Delhi in November 2005.

Other ministerial visits from Sierra Leone was of Mr. Momodu Koroma, Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone in January 2007; Mr. Joseph S. Sesay, Minister of Health and Mr. Francis Abdul Rahman Sankoh, Director of Livestocks, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Forestry in December 2007; Minister of Trade, Mr. A.P. Koroma, in March, 2008; and Foreign Minister, Ms. Zainab Bangura, in October 2008 and again in February, 2011.

Two MPs from Sierra Leone, Hon. Mr. Legacy Sankoh and Hon. Mr. Jacob I. Koroma, visited India to participate in the 'Leaders of the Future' programme, held in March 2012. Mr. Oluniyi Robbin-Coker, Minister of Energy and Water Resources visited India to participate in the Global Ministerial level "International Seminar on Energy Access" held in New Delhi in October, 2012.

A 4-member delegation led by Sahr George Pessima, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, visited India for a study tour on 18-27 in January 2013. Dr. Richard Konteh, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, led the Sierra Leonean delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi in March, 2013. The Deputy Trade and Industry Minister, Alie Badara Mansaray was part of the delegation. The Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry accompanied by the Special Secretary to the Chief of Staff in the Presidency and two business executives participated in the 10th EXIM Bank – CII Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2014.

Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar, visited Sierra Leone to attend the "Sierra Leone Conference on Development and Transformation" held in Sierra Leone from 30 January to 1 February, 2012.

Sierra Leone is a Commonwealth member country. It was represented at the Commonwealth Games Delhi 2010 by its 48-member sports delegation, led by the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports.

President Ernest Bai Koroma visited India (27-29 October 2015) for the third **India-Africa Forum Summit**. He had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi where cooperation in various fields was discussed. Foreign Minister Dr. Samura Kamara, who was part of the delegation, met with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Trade Minister of Sierra Leone also attended the Trade Ministers' Meet on 23-24 October 2015 on the sidelines of IAFS-III. Special Envoy to the PM Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, MOS (Water Resources) earlier visited Sierra Leone on 16-18 July to deliver PM's invitation to President Koroma.

An Indian Power Sector Technical Team comprising of representatives from Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and NTPC visited Sierra Leone from 8-11 December 2015. The team met with the Minister of Energy and also had field visits to thermal power station outside Freetown and Lunsar iron ore mines and Kenema and Bo substations.

The deployment of the 4000-strong Indian military contingent in the UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) – initially led by Brig. S.C. Joshi as the head of a 10-member Military Liaison Unit (attached to the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Sierra Leone), and, thereafter, by Maj. Gen. V.K. Jetley as Force Commander of UNAMSIL, beginning January 2000 – left a positive impact among the Sierra Leoneans. Indian troops were phased out in January, 2001.

Commercial relations:

India's trade with Sierra Leone is limited. According to available statistics, total bilateral trade between the two countries declined in 2015-16 to US \$ 107.73 million, with exports from India to Sierra Leone accounting for US \$ The Ebola virus crisis in 2014-15 adversely economic activity in Sierra Leone and hence dampened bilateral trade. Indian export basket comprises mostly of drugs and pharmaceuticals, textile, eggs, and machine tools, while the major items of imports from Sierra Leone include ferrous waste and scrap, wood pulp, waste paper and small quantities of titanium ores.

There are about 20 Indian NRI/PIO trading companies, based in Sierra Leone. Bharti Airtel, which had acquired Zain Africa for US\$ 10.7 bn in 2010, has recently sold off its operations to Orange Telecom of France.

Government of India has provided various assistance packages to Sierra Leone. During his visit to Sierra Leone in January 2009, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma, gifted 200 military barracks to Sierra Leone. These were erected by an Indian Public Sector Undertaking. India gifted 29 packages of indelible ink in May, 2007 for Sierra Leone's presidential and parliamentary elections held in September 2007. India also supplied 40,000 tonnes of non-basmati rice to Sierra Leone in June 2008 to meet urgent requirements.

With a view to assisting Sierra Leone in its socio-economic development, India extended concessional loans through Lines of Credit (LoC) worth US\$ 100 million for various projects in the country. These include (i) Development of Commercial Agriculture; (ii) Rehabilitation of Telecom Sector in Sierra Leone (SIERRATEL); (iii) Rehabilitation of Six Potable Water Projects; and (iv) Solar Street Lighting Project. Another two LOCs of US\$ 30 million and US\$ 15 million were approved for Irrigation Development and Expansion of Rehabilitation of existing Potable Water Facilities respectively in Sierra Leone. Government of Sierra Leone signed a fresh Line of Credit

Agreement with the EXIM Bank of India of US \$ 78 million in August 2016 for establishment of transmission sub-stations in Sierra Leone.

The Pan-African e-Network project is functioning well. The Sierra Leone Learning Centre has signed anMoU with all five participating Indian university centres. Furthermore, doctors as well as medical and pharmacology students have been regularly attending the tele-medicine programs and have found them to be beneficial.

Humanitarian Assistance:

To help the Sierra Leonean government combat Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), in December 2014 Government of India donated US \$ 50,000 worth of medical equipment and medicines to the local government. This donation was in addition to the Government of India's contribution of US\$ 12 million to the UN Trust Fund for Ebola and cash contribution of US\$ 50,000 to WHO to help fight the Ebola virus disease in the three countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

Under the ITEC program, Sierra Leone utilized 45 and 30 slots during the FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. It was allotted only 10 ITEC slots for the year 2014-15 and only 3 were utilized due to the Ebola Virus disease. Utilization of ITEC slots has once again picked up with 11 slots being utilized in 2015-16 and 26 slots in 2016-17. The ITEC Rural Solar Electrification course, held at the Barefoot College of Tilonia, was found to be particularly relevant. Some Sierra Leonean women, upon their return from the course, have successfully installed the solar system in their villages providing inexpensive electricity to the rural households.

Indian Community

The Indian community in Sierra Leone is about 1400 strong, of which 500 are on short term contracts. Indians are mostly engaged in trade and manufacturing. A few of them are into mining and trading of gold and diamonds. There are about 60 Indian owned registered companies. Airtel is the biggest Mobile telecommunications company. Indian Mercantile Association is the only Indian association in Sierra Leone. A Hindu temple is run by the local Temple Committee. Choithram Trust, managed by the Indian owned Choitram Group, runs a Charitable Hospital.

The International Day of Yoga (21 June 2015) was celebrated successfully in a grand manner with high level participation from the Government and diplomatic community. A similar event was organized by the Honorary Consul to mark the 2nd International Day of Yoga on 21st June 2016.

December 2016

**High Commission of India
Accra**

India-Togo Bilateral Brief

Political relations:

India and Togo have cordial bilateral relations. India does not have a resident Mission in Togo. The Indian High Commission in Accra is concurrently accredited to Togo. There is an Indian Honorary Consul in Lomé. Togo opened a resident Mission in New Delhi in October 2010.

Togolese President Mr. Gnassingbe Eyadema visited India in September 1994. This first state visit by a President of Togo (*he had made a brief stopover in Calcutta in 1989 on his way to China*) gave an impetus to bilateral cooperation. India announced a grant of Rs. 10 crore for setting up an agricultural project in Togo. India and Togo also decided to set up a Joint Commission. Prime Minister Mr. Gilbert Houngbo visited India to participate in the CII-Exim Bank Conclave in March 2010 & 2011.

Togolese Minister of Planning, Industrial Development and Administrative Reforms visited India in 1981; Minister for Rural Development in 1985. High-level government and business delegations participated in the CII-EXIM Conclave on 'India-Africa Project Partnerships' held in November 2005 and October 2006 in New Delhi and in May 2006 in Accra. Minister of Cooperation and NEPAD of Togo led the Togolese delegation for the CII Conclave in October 2006.

Prime Minister, Mr. Gilbert FossounHoungbo led a Togolese delegation to the 6th CII-Exim Bank Conclave in India in March 2010 and the 12th Regional Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in Accra on 3 June 2010. The senior diplomatic Advisor to the President, Mr. Koffi Esaw, visited India in October, 2010 in connection with inauguration of the resident Mission of Togo in India.

A Togolese delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation visited India and participated in the Conference of LDC countries in February, 2011. A 50-member delegation led by the Prime Minister, Mr. Gilbert FossounHoungbo, visited India in March, 2011 for the CII Conclave.

A Ministerial delegation led by Mr. NoupokouDammipi, Minister of Mining & Energy visited Delhi in November, 2011 to sign the LOC agreement with Exim Bank of India for US\$ 15 million Line of Credit (LOC) credit extended to the Government of Togo for Rural Electrification Project.

Three MPs, Mr. AdjamgbaAgbessiTheophile, Mr. Koffi Joseph TchikoAkoda and Mr. AyaoNicodemeHabia visited India to participate in the 'Leaders of the Future' programme, held in March 2012. The last two MPs, Mr. K. AkodaTchiko Joseph and Mr. AyaoHabia again visited India in March 2013 under the "Leaders of the Future" programme and also participated in the 9th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. Ms. EssossimnaLegzim-Balouki, Minister of Trade and Private Sector Promotion, led the Togolese delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi in March, 2013. The Minister of Commerce & Private Sector

Promotion led a 7-member delegation to the 10th EXIM Bank – CII Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2014.

The Togolese Foreign Minister Mr. Robert Dussey led the Togolese delegation to the IAFS-III Summit in New Delhi (27-30 October 2015) and he had a bilateral meeting with our EAM. The Togolese Minister of Trade, Private Sector Promotion Ms. Essossimna Legzim-Balouki also visited India to take part in the Trade Ministers meet on the sidelines of IAFS-III on 23-24 October 2015.

From India, Lok Sabha Speaker, Dr. Balam Jakhar, visited Lome in 1985 for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. An Indian dance ensemble visited Togo in 1984. Shri Anand Sharma, MOS (AS), met the President of Togo on 7 March 2007 in Accra during their visit to Ghana to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Ghana's Independence and discussed with him various issues of mutual interest.

MOS for Agriculture Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya visited Togo from 7-8 July 2015 as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to deliver the invitation to the President and Prime Minister of Togo for the IAFS –III Summit. He called on the Prime Minister of Togo Dr. Komi Selom Klassou during the visit.

MOS for Defence Dr. Subhash Bhamre visited Togo on 14-16 October 2016 for the AU Summit on Maritime Security & Safety, accompanied by a four-member delegation. During the visit he met the President of Togo, Prime Minister of Togo and other senior officials exchanging views on matters of common interest, security, piracy and bilateral issues.

A 5-member Indian delegation led by Shri Ajay Bhattacharya, Secretary (Fertilizers), visited Togo on 10-11 July, 2012 for exploring possibilities of cooperation in the area of phosphatic fertilizers. Another high level GOI delegation, led by Shri Sudhir Mital, Secretary (Fertilizer), visited Togo in June, 2013 for exploring possibilities of mining of phosphate and downstream manufacture of fertilizer.

A 3-member Indian delegation led by Shri Arvind Kaushal, Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education visited Togo in December 2013 in connection with the establishment of Agricultural Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centre in Togo under IAFS decisions.

A 2-member IL&FS Cluster delegation, Dr Milan Sharma and Ms. Swati Joshi visited Togo in May 2014 in connection with providing technical assistance for development of the Togolese cotton industry.

Commercial relations:

India has provided economic assistance to Togo in the form of tractors (60), water pumps, sewing machines, ambulance, transport vehicles, corn-grinding machines, etc. On the request from the Togolese government, Indelible ink was supplied in 2002 for the elections held in Togo. India sent a consignment of medicines required by the floods affected people in 2008. Government of India extended a financial support of US \$ 100,000 to the Togolese Government for the organizing of the AU Maritime Security Summit in Lomé in October 2016.

The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) of India organized a 2-day Indian Textile Exhibition (INTEXPO 2013) in March, 2013 in Togo. This first ever exhibition received good participation from local companies/traders.

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IFFT), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Togo, organized an Executive Development Programme (EDP) in Lomé in August 2013. It was attended by 69 participants from the Government, Public Sector organizations and private businesses. A two-member delegation from Apollo Hospitals visited Togo in March 2015 to explore opportunities in the health sector.

India has extended four Lines of Credit (LOCs) totaling US\$ 144.35 million through EBID and bilaterally) to Togo for various projects, which include 'Project Health Equipment' (completed); project to Upgrade the Power Generation and Distribution Capacity of CCET (under implementation); Rural Electrification (launched in October 2013); Transmission Lines in Kara-Mango-Dapong (signed in March 2014) and financing "Farming and Cultivation of Rice, Maize and Sorghum" (under processing).

In 2008, Togo signed the Country Agreement with TCIL for the Pan African E-Network Project which has been implemented. India has also offered to set up three other projects, viz. Human Settlement Centre, an India-Africa Centre for English Language Training, and an Agricultural Seed Production-cum-Demonstration in Togo under the decisions of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). Secretary, Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) led a 3-member delegation from India for discussions with Togolese authorities on the setting up of Agricultural Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centre in Togo in December 2013.

According to available statistics, total bilateral trade between the two countries, has grown steadily from US \$ 505 million in 2011-12 to US \$ 884 million in 2014-15. The trade figures for the past five years are as follows:

(Figures in USD million)

Year	Export to Togo	Import from Togo	Total Trade
2011-12	355.00	150.28	505.28
2012-13	299.88	177.41	477.29
2013-14	443.93	156.34	600.27
2014-15	688.42	195.65	884.07
2015-16	532.19	225.09	757.28

India's major exports to Togo include mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; cereals and preparation of cereals cotton; articles of apparel and clothing; iron and steel articles; man-made filaments; man-made staple fibers; drugs and pharmaceuticals; machinery & mechanical appliances; plastic and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof; vehicles and parts and accessories thereof, etc. Imports from Togo include natural phosphates, ferrous and copper waste and scrap; wood and articles of wood; other metal scrap; oil seeds; coconuts & brazil nuts etc..

ITEC:

India offers training in human resource development under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. In the last couple of years, Togo has expressed strong interest in

the capacity building modules under the ITEC programme. Togo utilized 35 ITEC slots allotted in 2012-13; 37 in 2013-14; 35 in 2014-15 and 33 in 2015-16. In addition to the above, 6 Togolese scientists travelled to India between June and December 2013 for research studies under the CV Raman Research Fellowships Scheme.

Indian community:

Indian community in Togo is small and there are about 200-300 Indians living in the country. Most of them are businessmen engaged in trading, assembling, running super markets, hotels etc. The community has an Association though not very active due to the small size of the community. The International Day of Yoga was organized on 21 June 2015 with a participation of about 150 people from different walks of life. A similar event was organized to mark the 2nd International Day of Yoga on 26 June 2016.

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Recommended Reading References

1.	Togo by Robert J. Blake
2.	Togo In Depth: A Peace Corps Publication by Peace Corps

**High Commission of India
Accra**

India-Burkina Faso Bilateral Brief

Political relations:

Bilateral relations between India and Burkina Faso have been cordial. Bilateral activities began in March 1976 when an official delegation led by Burkina Faso's Commerce & Industry Minister visited India and signed a Protocol on Economic and Technical Cooperation. Since then, there have been a number of High-Level visits from Burkina Faso to India including the visits of President of Burkina Faso, late Capt. Thomas Sankara, in 1983 to attend the NAM Summit and Minister of External Relations and Cooperation in 1989.

From India, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Burkina Faso in 1987. Bilateral relations got a boost in May-June 1993, when President Blaise Compaore visited India. During this visit, India and Burkina Faso decided to establish the Joint Commission to foster cooperation between the two countries. India offered to assist Burkina Faso in its economic development particularly in the areas of agriculture, handlooms, mining, irrigation, small scale industries etc.

During the two-day transit visit of President Compaore to Delhi in July 1994, India extended Rs. 250 million aid to Burkina Faso in the agricultural field, comprising a package of agricultural aid under the Integrated Agricultural Project. Under the package, 200 tractors and several other accessories, including seeds, implements, water pumps etc., were given. The Joint Commission on economic, cultural, political and technical cooperation between the two countries was established after an agreement signed in October 1994. President Compaore visited India again in 1997.

Former Prime Minister Tertius Zongo visited India in April 2008 to attend the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi. He met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and discussed matters of mutual interest. His visit gave further impetus to bilateral ties between the two countries.

Mr. Lene Sebgo, Minister of Health, led the Burkinabe delegation to the 9th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in Delhi in March, 2013. Mr. Yacouba Barry, Minister of Housing & Urbanization, Mr. Mahama Zoungrana, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security and Mr. Jean Koulidiati, Minister of Development of Digital Economy and Post were part of the delegation.

An official Burkinabe delegation comprising of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Minister of Mines and Energy and Director General in the Ministry of Mines and Energy amongst others, participated in the 10th EXIM Bank – CII Conclave held in New Delhi in March 2014. The Foreign Minister Mr. Moussa Bedializoun Nebi led a small delegation from Burkina Faso to take part in the **IAFS-III**. Mr Nebi met EAM on 28 October 2015.

From the Indian side, Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao paid a State Visit to Ouagadougou on 2-4 November 1995. This first ever Prime Ministerial visit to Burkina Faso was highly successful. The Prime Minister met the President of Burkina Faso and also addressed the Parliament. PM was awarded with the highest civil award of Burkina Faso. The visit paved the way for a more

intensive interaction in several fields. The Prime Minister inaugurated the new Indian Embassy with a resident C'dA. The Indian Mission was closed in July 2002.

Special Envoy to PM Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya, MOS(Agriculture) visited Burkina Faso from 9-10 July 2015 to deliver the invitation to the President of Burkina Faso for the IAFS-III Summit. He called on the interim President Mr. Michel Kafando during the visit.

A 3-member Indian delegation led by ShriArvindKaushal, Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education visited Burkina Faso in December 2013 in connection with the establishment of Water & Soil Tissue Test Laboratory in Burkina Faso under IAFS decisions.

The Embassy of Burkina Faso was opened in New Delhi in 1996 and elevated to the level of Ambassador in 2011.

Commercial relations:

An Indian Farmers Project, which was launched in Burkina Faso in 1999 for three years, was completed in 2002. Under the project, India had supplied expert farmers to demonstrate to Burkinabe farmers Indian practices of rice growing, including the use of ergonomically designed hand tools, tractors etc. and to train local farmers in this technology, related consumable inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. Farm machinery, equipment, vehicles and other necessary support were donated to Burkina Faso government after the completion of the project.

Burkina Faso was included as one of the nine West African countries under the GOI's TEAM-9 initiative and Pan African e-Network Project. GOI extended a Line of Credit (LOC) of US\$ 30.97 million, under TEAM- 9, for Agricultural Projects and for Construction/Equipping of National Post Office in Burkina Faso. Lines of Credit were also approved for rural electrification in 2008; for setting up a Tomato Processing Factory in 2010; for Public Housing Project; and supply of 135 buses for universities and other institutions of higher education, construction of two workshops, construction of covered parking lot, procurement of spare parts etc. in the first half of 2012.

India had offered to set up three projects viz., Vocational Training Centre / Incubation Centre (VTC/IC), a Vocational Training Centre of Barefoot College and a Soil and Water Tissue Testing Laboratory in Burkina Faso under the decisions of India Africa Fund Summit (IAFS) (I & II). A two member delegation from National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) visited Ouagadougou in October 2013 for signing of agreement between Ministry of Youth, Vocational Training and Employment (MYVTE), Government of Burkina Faso and NSIC for setting up VTC/IC in Burkina Faso. A 3-member delegation led by Secretary, ICAR visited Burkina Faso in December 2013 for discussions and site inspection for establishment of the Soil and Water Tissue Testing Laboratory. Barefoot College has so far conducted two workshops in Burkina Faso and Dr. Bunker Roy of Barefoot College visited Burkina Faso in April 2015.

NSIC successfully set up the Vocational Training Centre/Incubation Centre in Ouagadougou and handed over the project to the local agency under the Burkinabe Ministry of Youth, Professional Employment and Training on 3 November 2016.

Three participants from Burkina Faso visited India for a 5-day Exposure Visit for Policy Makers, organized by IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative in December, 2012 under the Cotton-Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) implemented under the IAFS-II. A second group of five persons

visited India in January, 2013 for a training programme on Post-Harvest Management and Crop Residue. A two-member IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative Ltd., Noida, visited Burkina Faso in November 2013 for discussions with stakeholders in the cotton sector in Burkina Faso under the Cotton TAP for Africa.

Business interaction between India and Burkina Faso has gained momentum in the recent past. Burkina Faso participated in the India-Africa Partnership Conclave in New Delhi in March 2008. It was the partner country in the CII Conclave in March 2009 in New Delhi. A meeting of the India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission was held in New Delhi in March 2009. A 22-member business delegation sponsored by the CII visited Burkina Faso in June 2010 and another 19-member multi-sectoral delegation of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FICCI) from 10-14 April 2013. Besides various official level meetings, the delegation participated in a Business Forum and a Buyer to Buyer (B2B) meeting.

Government of India sent a consignment of medicines to Burkina Faso to help people affected by the severe floods in 2008. Another donation of US \$ 213,356 was made to Burkina Faso as India's contribution towards flood relief assistance in September 2009.

According to available statistics, total bilateral trade between the two countries registered US\$ 264.40 million in 2014-15 and US\$ 119.76 million in 2013-14. Exports from India grew by about 9% from US\$ 103.21 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 112.76 million in 2014-15. Imports from Burkina Faso grew phenomenally from US\$ 16.55 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 151.64 million, with increase in imports of gold and cotton.

India's major exports to Burkina Faso are pharmaceutical products, vehicles and parts thereof, iron and steel and articles thereof, machinery and mechanical appliances, rubber and articles thereof. Major Imports from Burkina Faso are gold and cotton.

Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC):

India has rendered technical assistance to Burkina Faso in its human resource development through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. Burkina Faso utilized 22 ITEC slots during 2013-14 and 26 slots in 2014-15. (*Utilization fell to 12 in 2015-16 – largely to political disturbances between September 2014 to November 2015*). Five Burkinabe scientists were awarded CV Raman Fellowships for carrying out research activities in India between June and December 2013.

Culture:

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated successfully on 21 June 2015. ICCR had deputed a Yoga teacher to Burkina Faso for the event which attracted a good participation from the small expatriate international community and the local Indian community. 2nd International Day of Yoga was also celebrated in a function organized by the Honorary Consul on 21 June 2016.

An 8-member cultural dance troupe (Sapera) from Rajasthan visited Burkina Faso from 12-15 September 2015. The visit was sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Two performances were organized in Ouagadougou by the High Commission of India in Accra, with the help of the Indian community there, which were well-attended and appreciated.

Indian Community:

The Indian community in Burkina Faso is around 200-300. Some of them are engaged in manufacturing and trading business and restaurants while the rest are their employees. Some are also doing business in cotton and gold.

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Recommended Reading References

1.	Burkina Faso, 2nd (Bradt Travel Guide) by Katrina Manson and James Knight
2.	Freedom in Fulani Social Life: An introspective Ethnography by Paul Riesman
3.	Political Reform in Francophone Africa by John F. Clark; David E. Gardinier (Westview Press, 1997)